

**St. Marys Downtown Development Authority (DDA)**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Meeting Minutes for October 14, 2013

The meeting of the St. Marys DDA was called to order by Straight at 8:30 am. Straight announced to the board that this would be AJ's last meeting and thanked him for his service while working for the city.

**Members Present:** Jim Lomis, John Morrissey, Terry Landreth, Charlie Smith and Gary Straight

**Members not Present:** Jerry Brandon & Cheri Richter

**Guest in attendance:** N/A

**Staff:** Artie Jones, III; Director, Renée Coakley; Executive Assistant

**Minutes:** The board reviewed the September 9, 2013 meeting minutes. Minutes were approved with a motion by Lomis and a second by Landreth. All were in favor of the motion.

**Treasurers Report:** The financials were reviewed and motion to approve was made by Smith and second by Lomis. All were in favor.

**Additions to the Agenda:** Renée added DDA golf cart and DDA report to council to the agenda. The board requested the two items be added: Redevelopment Powers Act and Operations of the DDA.

**BUSINESS DISCUSSION:**

**Team Camden:** AJ reported that the planning for the event scheduled for October 30 & 31<sup>st</sup>, Camden County Connection is still on going. Current reservations have been made for 12 state invitees. Team Camden members will be meeting to do a preliminary tour of the boat for set up purposes. The driving tour route has been mapped and the group has driven the tour to ensure time restraints are met.

**Redevelopment Powers Act:** AJ reported that approximately 3 or 4 months ago he distributed a timeline to have this adopted for St. Marys. AJ has met with an attorney who has worked on this before in different cities in Georgia and the attorney suggested that the proclamation from the city in support of this act be at the legislature by December to be available when sessions begin in January. Straight asked who would proceed with this process once AJ is no longer in the Economic Development Director position for St. Marys. AJ noted that the City Manager is abreast of the current process and may take the lead with the Redevelopment Powers Act. AJ noted that he will be giving a complete turnover to the City Manager before his last day. Straight would like to be involved with the turnover meeting. Smith and Lomis also noted that they would like to attend that meeting as well. AJ will schedule a special board meeting for this turnover process. Lomis suggested that a Redevelopment Powers Act fact sheet be created and presented to educate St. Marys residents as well as candidates for election.

**St. Marys Intracoastal Gateway (SMIG):** AJ reported that the committee did not meet this month due to the late meeting in September and the adoption of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Foram Group, Inc. The group will be working with Foram on an

ongoing basis until possible development of the site. At the last meeting Chairman Gant requested a letter nominating someone from the DDA to serve on the Executive Committee for the SMIG group. This Executive Committee will work directly with Forum Group, Inc. Smith nominated Straight to serve in that position and the motion was second by Morrissey. All were in favor.

**Maritime Heritage District:** AJ noted that there have been no changes. The City Planning Director is continuing efforts with the permits that have been applied for with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

**Economic Development Committee:** Lomis reported that this group has had a second meeting and continues to drill down on a goal. The focus is retirees 50+, government partners and small businesses. The committee is creating a dashboard of information requesting volunteers for groups.

**Letter to JDA:** this item was removed from the agenda.

**SMIG Steering Committee Executive Committee Representation:** this item was reported on during the SMIG discussion.

**Mill Site Commercial/Residential versus Lite Industrial versus Industrial:** AJ reported that the property is currently zoned commercial/residential and that the trustee is currently marketing the property as light industrial. Morrissey asked if AJ could provide the board with the contact information with Jacoby so that the relationship established would not be lost.

**November Meeting Date:** The board decided to move the November meeting date to the 18<sup>th</sup> because of the holiday on the second Tuesday of that month.

**DDA Golf Cart:** After brief discussion of the current problems with the golf cart, (not keeping the charge), the board decided to relinquish rights of the golf cart to the city. Lomis made a motion to recommend to the City Manager that the DDA does not have a further need of the golf cart and relinquishes that property to the city. The motion was second by Smith. All were in favor. A question was asked about the line item on the DDA financials in regards to furniture and equipment. Renée noted that item pertained to the golf cart purchase and any repairs and the board members asked to have that amount which is in excess of \$7,000 reversed from the DDA account if this was a city purchased item.

**Operations of the DDA:** Discussion was had to the movement of the Economic Development department, the status of the tourism relocation and the decisions on what needs to happen with the DDA property currently left in the building. Morrissey will request clarification on steps for the building and also request to see the plans for the modifications to the building.

**DDA Report to Council:** Straight presented the document that will be used for the update to council on October 21<sup>st</sup>. He highlighted topics in his letter from the chairman that he will discuss. Straight asked all board members plan to attend the council meeting for support.

Morrissey requested that the item: "Update on Weed Street Property Use" be added to the agenda for November.

**DIRECTORS REPORT:**

**Businesses and Updates:** AJ reported on each item above.

**Adjourn** – Meeting adjourned at 10:03 am with a motion by Landreth and second by Lomis. All were in favor.

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Charlie Smith, Secretary

Prepared by Renée Coakley, Executive Assistant